

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:G. DE SANTILLANA:BGT
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGHTS CZ I MMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127460

LONDON FOR ARA DAS BUSHNELL; PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, DR, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE DOMINICAN MILITARY'S INTERRUPTION OF THE VOTE COUNT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MAY 17.
2. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND TO LEADING DOMINICAN MILITARY OFFICERS THROUGH A NUMBER OF CHANNELS, STRESSING BALAGUER'S STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON LAST SEPTEMBER THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE FAIR AND OPEN, OUR STRONG INTEREST THAT THE RESULTS OF FREE ELECTIONS BE RESPECTED, AND THAT
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FRUSTRATION OF FREE ELECTIONS WILL HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT BALAGUER AND HIS ASSOCIATES CLEARLY UNDERSTAND OUR DEEP CONCERN.

3. THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING OUR HOPE THAT THE MILITARY'S DISTURBING INTER-

VENTION IN THE DOMINICAN ELECTORAL PROCESS PROVES TO BE TEMPORARY AND THAT THE WINNERS OF THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE OFFICE IN THE CONSTITUTIONALLY PRESCRIBED MANNER.

4. PRESIDENTS PEREZ OF VENEZUELA, CARAZO OF COSTA RICA, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA HAVE COMMUNICATED THEIR DEEP CONCERN, BOTH TO US AND TO THE GODR. THE PRESENCE OF THREE OAS ELECTION OBSERVERS IN THE DR -- FORMER PRESIDENTS GALO PLAZA OF ECUADOR, PASTRANA OF COLOMBIA, AND MENDEZ MONTENEGRO OF GUATEMALA -- HAS ALSO BEEN HELPFUL.

5. THE DOMINICAN CENTRAL ELECTION BOARD RESUMED ITS NORMAL FUNCTIONS THIS MORNING, INCLUDING TABULATION OF THE BALLOTS. WE VIEW THIS AS AT LEAST A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WHETHER THE RENEWED VOTE COUNT WILL BE HONEST.

6. SANTO DOMINGO HAS BEEN NOTABLY CALM SO FAR. THE PRD PARTY IN A NATIONAL RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT THIS MORNING URGED ITS FOLLOWERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.

7. ALL ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY DRAW ON PARAS 1 THROUGH 6 ABOVE IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES BY HOST GOVERNMENTS.

8. F.Y.I.: VARIOUS DIMENSIONS OF THE SITUATION IN THE
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DR REMAIN UNCLEAR. ELEMENTS OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY HOSTILE TO THE PRD ACTED UNEXPECTEDLY WEDNESDAY MORNING IN STOPPING THE VOTE COUNT WHEN BALAGUER APPEARED TO BE LOSING. IT APPEARS THEIR ACTIONS HAD NOT BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH, AND THE VARIOUS U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES BROUGHT TO BEAR MAY ACCOUNT IN PART FOR APPARENT PROLONGED INDECISION AND DISARRAY YESTERDAY AT THE TOP LEVELS OF THE GODR. END F.Y.I. VANCE

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